

## THE REBELLION.

## Startling Disclosures at Washington.

## Arrests of Distinguished Female Spies.

## Their Acknowledged Sympathy For and Correspondence With the Rebels.

## Particulars of the Arrest and Imprisonment of Mayor Berret.

## IMPORTANT POST OFFICE ORDER.

## All Letter Communication With the South Stopped.

## IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI

## Call of Gov. Gamble for Forty Thousand Union Troops.

## The Effect of the Bull Run Fight in Europe.

## The Appropriations of the Last Session of Congress.

## The Law in Regard to the Capture of Privateers.

## OPERATIONS OF THE COAST GUARD,

## OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, August 25, 1861.

## THE ARREST OF MAYOR BERRET.

The arrest of Mayor James G. Berret yesterday morning has occasioned no surprise in this community. It has long been expected that his known disloyalty would demand the attention of the government. The record of the proceedings of the newly organized Board of Police Commissioners furnishes some interesting details in reference to his refusal to take the following oath prescribed by Congress for all civil officers—

I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be), that I will support, protect and defend the constitution and government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge and purpose, with out any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

After all the other members of the Board, including the Mayor of Georgetown, who is, like the Mayor of Washington, an ex-officio member, had taken the prescribed oath, Mr. Berret claimed that being a member of the Board only ex-officio, the oath he had already taken as Mayor of Washington, although entirely different, superseded the necessity of his subscribing to a new one.

The matter was referred to the Attorney General of the United States for his opinion. In the opinion rendered the case is argued at length. The Attorney General decided that all the members of the Board of Police, whether appointed by the President or members ex-officio, are officers in the service of the United States, and are comprehended in the provisions of the first section of the act of Congress of August 6, 1861, which declares that it shall be the duty of the heads of the several departments to cause to be administered to each and every officer, clerk or employee now in their respective departments, or in any way connected therewith, or who shall hereafter in any way become connected therewith, the oath therein prescribed; and further, that each and every such clerk or employee in the departments aforesaid, or in any way connected therewith in the service or employment of the United States, who shall refuse to take the oath or affirmation therein provided, shall be immediately dismissed and discharged from such service or employment. The office held by these Police Commissioners is created and its duties are defined by act of Congress. Five of them are appointed by the President, and the other two are declared members of the Board, because they hold certain offices which were created by acts of Congress. Their compensation and all their expenses which may be incurred in the discharge of their official duties are to be paid out of the Treasury of the United States; and, finally, they are to make periodical reports to the head of one of the departments of the government.

The twenty-fourth section of the organic act makes it their duty to report annually, in writing, the condition of the police within the districts to the Secretary of the Interior. By this provision they are certainly connected with the Department of the Interior, and they are therefore directly within the letter of the statute which makes it the duty of the head of that department to cause the oath in question to be administered to every officer or employee in any way connected with that department. The act does not attempt to define what kind of connection with the department shall bring the officer within its terms; but it is careful to extend the duty of causing the oath to be administered beyond officers who are in the departments to the larger circle of officers who are in any way connected with the departments, and it is too plain for argument that the duty of making an annual report in writing of the condition of the police to the Secretary of the Interior directly connects the Board of Police with the Department of the Interior, and they are therefore directly within the letter of the statute which makes it the duty of the head of that department to cause the oath in question to be administered to every officer or employee in any way connected with that department.

The Adams Express Company having applied to the proper authorities for the construction to be placed in the clause in the President's proclamation relating to the interdiction of commercial intercourse with the so-called Confederate States, and learning that it was intended to include letters, immediately issued orders to all their clerks to cease receiving letters without waiting for the expiration of the limit of time named in that document. It is not known what action, if any, has been taken by the letter express companies on this subject.

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THE HOUSE OF MRS. PHILLIPS TAKEN POSSESSION OF.

All sorts of reports are in circulation to-night about supposed arrests of disloyal parties and the seizure of papers containing evidences of the treason of distinguished persons. The house of Mrs. Philip Phillips, wife of an ex-member of Congress from Alabama, was taken possession of by order of General Porter. Mr. Phillips is now absent in the South, and said to be an active secessionist. Mrs. Phillips and her two beautiful and accomplished daughters have resided here some time, and have not hesitated to announce their full sympathy with the rebels. It is said they went so far as to attempt to illuminate their dwelling on the night of the Bull Run disaster, but were dissuaded from the rash act by their friends. They have repeatedly been cautioned against uttering their opinions against the government and disloyal sentiments. I learn that they have often boldly acknowledged that they were in correspondence with Beauregard and other rebel generals. The officers searched the house, and finding evidences of warrent it surrounded it. The order was given for a guard to be placed around it, and the inmates to be held as prisoners. All persons who called were accosted to know what their business was, and who and what their names, if they brought letters or messages, &c. A loyal gentleman, who has long been on terms of social intimacy with the family, called to pay his respects to the ladies. He was challenged as described above, and when one of the young ladies appeared and spoke to him, and he to her, the officer forbade the conversation, at the same time explaining to him that he was ordered to forbid it. The gentleman left. This looks like doing up the work of purification thoroughly, and seems to meet with the approbation of all good citizens. A well known widow of this city, by the name of Greengough, was also arrested in her own house, which was also searched, and surrounded with a guard.

ARREST OF MISS SENATOR GWIN.

Mrs. Senator Gwin was arrested two days ago in her own home, in this city, where she has been confined ever since, a proper military guard having been placed in the house to prevent any communication between her and rebel spies, who, it is supposed, have been in the habit of frequenting the house.

A trunk was seized at the depot in this city addressed to Mrs. Gwin. It was opened and found to contain a lot of gentlemen's shirts. Some of them were sewed together, in one of which was found a map of all of our fortifications on the Virginia side of the river. This was an important discovery, and resulted in the immediate arrest of Mrs. Gwin.

Altogether about six persons who have called upon Mrs. Greengough, Mrs. Gwin and the wife and daughters of Mr. Philip Phillips have been arrested and held. They are Southerners, and from circumstantial and positive evidence obtained against them are spies. A large number of people believe that these have called as acquaintances, and upon learning the facts of the arrest and giving evidence of their own loyalty to the Union, were allowed to leave. None of them were allowed to enter the house without being informed that they would not be allowed to pass out without an order from the Secretary of War or Provost Marshal. Consequently all calls are not arrested declined entering.

It is gratifying to know that the authorities are determined to arrest all persons who are suspected as rebel spies.

ARREST OF RESIGNED OFFICERS.

Capt. Robert Tansill and Lieut. Thos. S. Wilson, of the Marine Corps, and Henry B. Claiborne and Hilary Cenas both Midshipmen, have been sent to Fort Hamilton. They had tendered to the Secretary of the Navy their resignations, which were rejected. Their names have been stricken from the roll.

EXPECTED DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN WASHINGTON.

The city has been thrown into a state of excitement this morning by a report that martial law is to be immediately declared. The authorities have not yet decided to take such a step.

A CHANGE IN THE CABINET DESIRED BY BOSTON CAPITALISTS.

Wiley Edward, John C. Gray and William T. Andrews, of Boston, have been endeavoring to persuade the President that he ought to change his constitutional advisers. It is said these gentlemen represent the sentiments of certain prominent monetary interests in Boston, capitalists of the Athens, who demand that the heads of the War and Navy departments must come off, else they will not risk their capital further. The presentation of their case here has created considerable feeling.

FALSE REPORT IN REGARD TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCOTT.

A report in town to-day, and which may reach the press, that Assistant Secretary Scott has been arrested, is without the slightest foundation in truth. Colonel Scott is acting Secretary of War to-day, and was never more busy in his life. The report probably arose from the fact that Colonel Scott had confederately to do with the arrest of Mayor Berret.

EXPRESS COMPANIES NOT TO DELIVER LETTERS IN REBEL STATES.

The following order has just been published by the Postmaster General:

Post Office Department, August 14, 1861.

The President of the United States directs that his proclamation of the 16th inst., interdicting commercial intercourse with the so-called Confederate States, shall be applied to correspondence with those States, and has directed upon this department the enforcement of so much of its interdiction as relates to such correspondence. The officers and agents of this department will, therefore, without further instructions, see to it in putting an end to written intercourse with those States by causing the arrest of any express agent or other person who shall, after the promulgation of this order, receive letters to be carried to or from those States, and will cause all such letters and forward them to this department.

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